Oswald Had Help, Sen. Russell Says

SEN. RICHARD RUSSELL

By DON OBERDORFER

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Sen. Richard B. Russell, who was a member of the Warren Commission which investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, says he never believed that Lee Harvey Oswald planned the assassination alone.

"I think someone else worked with him (on the planning)," the Georgia Democrat said in one of a series of taped television interviews to be broadcast next month by WSB-TV, an Atlanta television station.

"There were too many things—the fact that he (Oswald) was at Minsk (in the Soviet Union), and that was the principal center for educating Cuban students . . . some of the trips he made to Mexico City and a number of discrepancies in the evidence, or as to his means of transportation, the luggage he had and whether or not anyone was with him—(that) caused me to doubt that he planned it all by himself," he said.

Russel appears to be in accord with the commission's conclusions that Oswald was the man who fired the shots at Kennedy, and that he acted alone. "I think that any other commission you might appoint today would arrive at that conclusion," he said.

Due to his doubts that Oswald planned the act alone, Russell said he insisted on a [illegible] sentence in the final report before he would sign.

The last sentence in the report, which was issued in September, says that "because of the difficulty of proving negatives to a certainty the possibility of others being involved with either Oswald or [illegible] Ruby cannot be established categorically but if there is any such evidence it has been beyond the reach of all the investigative agencies and resources of the United States and has not come to the attention of this commission."

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The majority of the seven-member commission, headed by then-chief Justice Earl Warren, "wanted to find" that Oswald planned and acted alone, Russell said.